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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO MACHINE VISION EQUIPMENT

(57) Abstract: A method of setting-up machine vision equipment is disclosed, which equipment comprises imaging means comprising a camera defining a field of view and being adapted to form an image of a test object within said field of view, and processing means for processing said image for determining one or more physical properties of said test object, and first supporting means for supporting a test object at a predetermined distance from said camera within said field of view; said method being characterised by: providing second supporting means for supporting at least one reference object; placing a reference object having at least one accurately known dimension on said second supporting means; selectively moving one or more of said camera, said first supporting means and said second supporting means, such that said reference object is brought into the camera's field of view at said predetermined distance from said camera; imaging said reference object to obtain at least one image, and processing said at least one image to determine the optimum configuration of the imaging means; and thereafter adjusting the configuration of said imaging means to said optimum configuration. Also disclosed is a dimensionally stable reference object having at least one accurately known dimension which is fabricated from a ceramic material having a low reflectance or albedo value. Preferably, the reference object comprises a cylindrical bar having an accurately known diameter. Said ceramic material may comprise a ceramic alumina.